

The White Water to Blue Water Initiative

A Partnership to Link Freshwater and Oceans



Integrating the management of watersheds, coasts, and oceans



Promoting sustainable tourism



Controlling land-based sources of marine pollution



Promoting best practices for maritime industries

The White Water to Blue Water Partnership, first announced on September 2nd, 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, is underway in the Wider Caribbean. The White Water to Blue Water initiative is designed to promote the practice of integrated watershed and marine ecosystem management in support of sustainable development. An international Steering Committee is working to identify existing programs and develop new partnerships that enhance integrated approaches in areas such as wastewater and sanitation, sustainable agricultural practices, integrated coastal management, sustainable tourism, shipping and maritime transportation in the Caribbean. The Steering Group is also setting the agenda for a week-long conference and training institute to facilitate partnerships, exchange best practices and encourage innovation. The outcome of the Partnership in the Wider Caribbean may serve as a blueprint for future programs on watershed and marine ecosystem management in Africa and the South Pacific.

The Objectives of White Water to Blue Water Include:

- **Strengthening national and regional institutional capacity** to implement cross-sectoral watershed and marine ecosystem management.
- **Facilitating closer cooperation and good governance** within and among nations, regional agencies and civil society in coastal and marine resource management, water management, health, environmental protection, agriculture, and urban planning.
- **Engaging business partners** in the major growth sectors, such as tourism and shipping, to promote best business and environment practices, and to support regional activities in watershed and marine coastal management.

Helping to Implement International Agreements

The White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Partnership initiative is intended to help implement the following international commitments: the Barbados Programme of Action, the Montreal Declaration of the Global Program of Action, the Jakarta Mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCLOS, the Cartagena Convention and its three protocols, the International Coral Reef Initiative, the FAO Compliance Agreement, the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and the 2000 Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.



Promoting sustainable forestry and agriculture practices

Partners:

Governments: The governments of the Wider Caribbean Region, the United States, United Kingdom, France, Canada, and the Netherlands.

International Organizations: United Nations (UNEP) Caribbean Environment Programme and Global Program of Action, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's IO-Caribe program, Caribbean Environmental Health Institute, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, World Bank, Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo, International Maritime Organization, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Pan American Health Organization, United Nations Development Programme, Caribbean Tourism Organization, and the Organization of American States.

Civil Society: World Conservation Union, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wildlife Fund, World Resources Institute, The Nature Conservancy, United Nations Foundation, Coastal Conservation Association, Ocean Conservancy, Oceana, EcoLogic, Sloan Foundation.

Academia: The Universities of Miami, Delaware, Rhode Island and the West Indies.

Private Sector: Hotels, cruise lines and the tourism industry.

Resources

U.S. Government involvement in WW2BW to date is substantial, with strong commitment from U.S. Agency for International Development, the Departments of State, Commerce (NOAA), Agriculture and Interior, and the USEPA. The State Department has already committed \$2 million to WW2BW-related projects worldwide (\$1.5 million of which directly targets the Wider Caribbean Region). In addition to major ongoing activities, USAID recently announced a \$1.5 million matching partnership with the UN Foundation to support a Meso-American Coral Reef Alliance in Mexico and Central America. Other U.S. agencies are developing WW2BW-related projects for future fiscal years to complement their ongoing activities in the Caribbean. The Governments of the Wider Caribbean Region have pledged in-kind and facilitative support for the initiative, while other international partners such as the United Kingdom, France, Canada and UNEP are developing their own plans to implement WW2BW-related programs discussed at the WSSD.

Becoming a Partner

The Steering Committee of the White Water to Blue Water Partnership Initiative welcomes new interest from the public and private sectors. For further information please contact the U.S. Department of State, Mr. Richard Wilbur (WilburRM2@state.gov), the Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Mr. Thomas Laughlin (Tom.Laughlin@noaa.gov), CARICOM, Ms. Anya Thomas (anya@caricom.org), or UNEP Caribbean Environment Program, Mr. Tim Kasten (tjk.uneprcuja@cwjamaica.com).



Map of the Wider Caribbean Region